



NEWS RELEASE

September 24, 2002

Orlando Border Patrol Agents and Orange County Sheriffs arrest “Wanted Criminal Alien”

Federal and County Law Enforcement continue to pursue community security

MIAMI, Fla. – Ishmael Cooper, a Jamaican national, was arrested today by Orlando Station Border Patrol Agents with the support of the Orange County Sheriffs Department and charged criminally with entering the United States illegally after being formally deported. The maximum sentence that can be imposed for the violation of 8 USC 1326 is 20 years.

Cooper, who is wanted for questioning in an on-going homicide investigation, had been arrested previously during which time he was booked on 2 counts of first-degree murder.

Cooper initially came to the attention of the U.S. Border Patrol through a cooperative enforcement initiative with Tampa Bay law enforcement authorities at which time he claimed to be a citizen of the United Kingdom. The ensuing investigation revealed his true identity and culminated with the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division, issuing a warrant for his arrest on Sept. 12, 2002, for violation of 8 USC 1326.

Records reflect that Ishmael Cooper was deported on Nov. 12, 2001 through Miami International Airport as an aggravated felon for possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute and failure to stop or remain at the scene of an accident with injury.

~ USBP ~